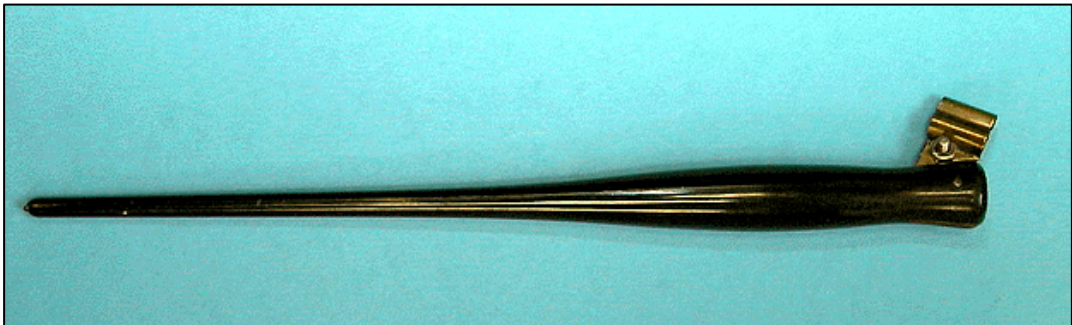


Isaac Weldon Bullock & *His Legendary Oblique Penholder*



Isaac Weldon Bullock
(1915-1992)



Compiled by Dr. Joseph M. Vitolo, 2014
Penman and IAMPETH Historian

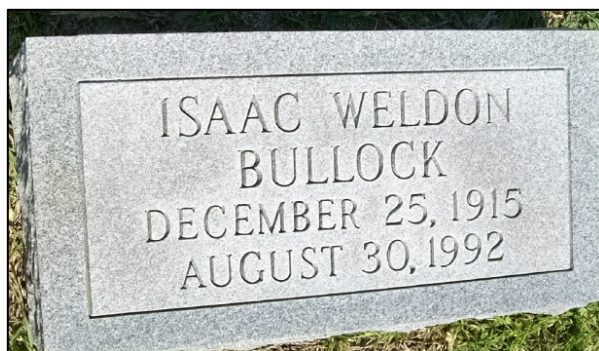
The portrait drawing above is used with permission from Michael Sull. It was taken from his book, 'Spencerian Script and Ornamental Penmanship', Volume I.

The following biography is used with permission from Michael Sull and was taken from his book, 'Spencerian Script and Ornamental Penmanship', Volume I.

Isaac Weldon Bullock (1915-1992)

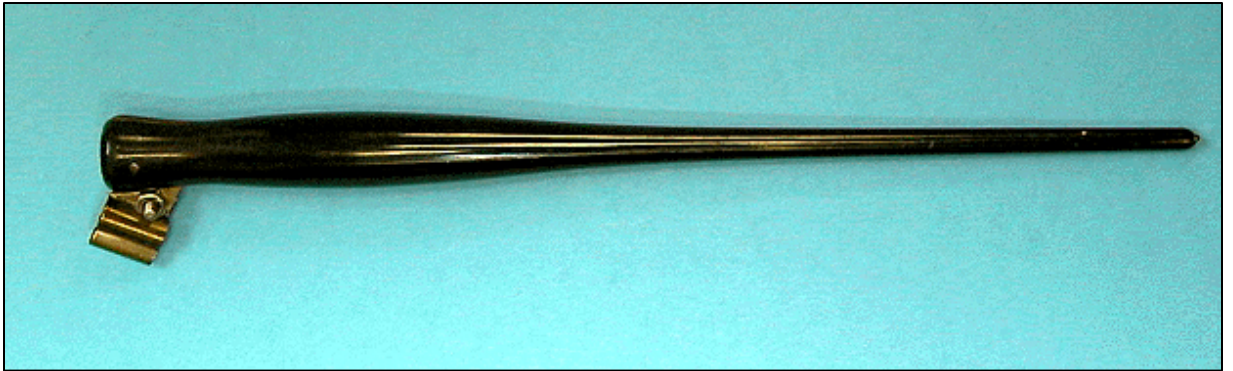
Born on Christmas Day, 1915, IW Bullock is a native of Creedmoor, North Carolina. After graduating with Phi Beta Kappa honors from Duke University in 1937, he went to work for famous strongman Bob Hoffman, and his strongman team that traveled around the country, putting on weightlifting demonstrations and promoting York brand barbells. Naturally athletic as a youth, "I. W." set a weightlifting record in 1933 when he "cleaned and jerked" 308 pounds. From 1940 to 1950, IW earned his living as a beer salesman, first for the Krueger Company and later for the Rupert Brewery. During these years he became a portrait artist, and was known for his realistic renderings. In 1950 his interests turned to the field of photography, and he opened a photographic studio in the Norfolk-Durham area of Gravel County, North Carolina. Entirely self-taught, IW became proficient in various photographic disciplines, especially that of photo retouching. Through this skill he learned hand control, a valuable asset years later when he practiced calligraphy.

In 1954, IW Bullock secured employment in the County tax office that was located next to his photography shop. He became a tax collector, then a tax supervisor and auditor, serving his county in these positions for 25 years until his retirement in 1979. Upon his retirement, Mr. Bullock became interested in calligraphy. He began teaching himself the art by studying the Speedball textbook. Old English and Copperplate held a particular fascination for him. He wrote to the Zaner-Bloser Company for further information and purchased a number of their oblique penholders. As time went by, IW worked to improve the design of these unique penholders. He succeeded in developing oblique penholders that were more versatile than any on the market, as his could hold pen points of all sizes, including crow quill points. In the past ten years, Mr. Bullock's heavily shaded lettering and "ob-holders" (as he calls them) are known to calligraphers throughout America. He has taught numerous classes in Copperplate lettering, and continues to devote much of his time to this form of calligraphy.

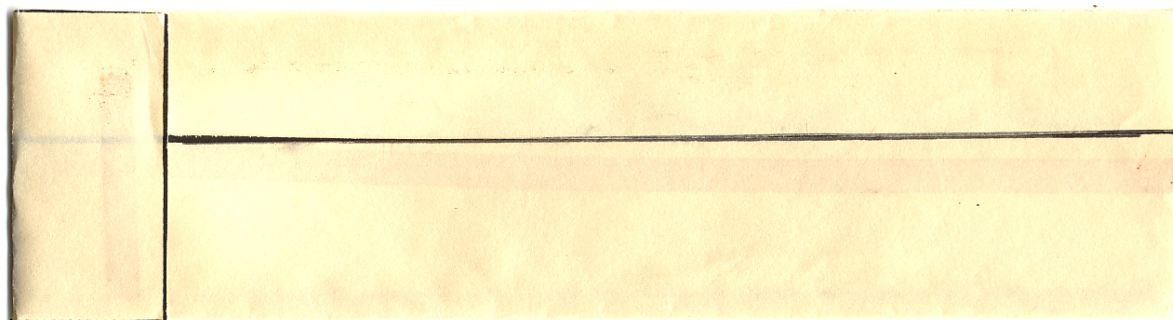
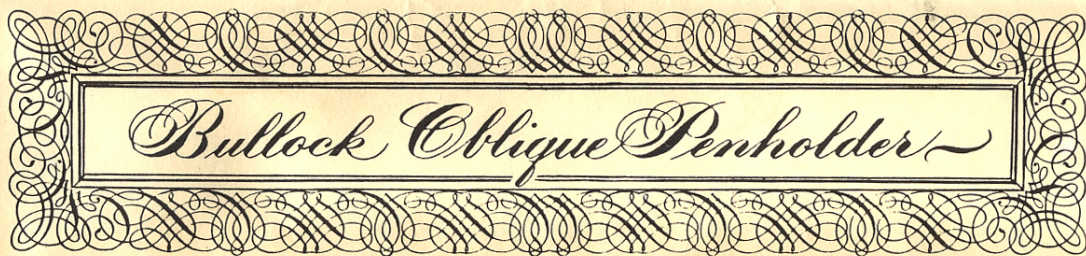


Mr. Bullock's tombstone located at Creedmoor Cemetery in Granville County, North Carolina.

The Bullock Oblique Penholder



Rarely seen original
packaging, penned by
Mr. Bullock



Rarely seen original
packing inserts, penned
by Mr. Bullock



*All Shaded Round Hand
and Copperplate Penpoints,
even crow quills, fit perfectly
in this adjustable, lightweight
oblique penholder of new design.*

*By tightening or loosening
the screw on the point holder,
the point is held firmer and
may be removed much easier.
There is no wobble in this
sturdy and durable penholder.*

Care of the Bullock Oblique Penholder


Tighten the retainer screw enough to hold the penpoint or nib securely.

Do not dip the nib in the ink in a manner that dunks the retainer, nut, and screw. If you use a Skrip bottle to hold the Higgins Eternal Ink, you will find that the well can eliminate retainer, nut, and screw clogging due to "over-dipping."

Remove dried ink with soap, water and an old toothbrush. Ajax, Comet, etc. is better than soap. Liquid Wrench will loosen the most stubborn rust and grime. Use facial tissue to remove wet ink. Clean and dry the holder and nib after each session.

J. W. Bullock

This holder is guaranteed
but not against damage caused
by dried, clogged ink;

A decorative border made of intricate, symmetrical calligraphic flourishes and scrolls, framing the central text.

J. W. Bullock ~
P. O. Box 366
Creedmoor, N. C.
~ 27522 ~

Superior Calligraphic Pen Co. Stationers & Stationery

- A.B.C. Gillotts 170 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
- A.B.C. Hunt Old 22 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
- A.B.C. Hunt 99 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
- A.B.C. Gillotts 1068 A ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
- A.B.C. Esterbrook 357 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
- A.B.C. Esterbrook 356 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
- A.B.C. Esterbrook 354 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
- A.B.C. Esterbrook 355 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
- A.B.C. Hunt 108 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
- A.B.C. Spencerian Pen Co. School No 5
- A.B.C. Perry 81 F ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
- A.B.C. Hunt No 56 School ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
- A.B.C. Perry 81 E F ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
- A.B.C. Hunt 22 New ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
- A.B.C. Hunt 101 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
- A.B.C. Ivison Phinney Spencerian #1
- A.B.C. Gillotts 659 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
- A.B.C. Gillotts 290 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
- A.B.C. Gillotts 303 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
- A.B.C. Gillotts 291 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
- A.B.C. Mitchell Elbow ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
- A.B.C. Gillotts 404 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
- A.B.C. Gillotts 358 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Thanks to I. W. Bullock for this page which shows what different pens will do.

I. W. Bullock
P.O. Box 366
Creedmoor
North Carolina
27522

Ink: Higgins Eternal
All Oblique Penholders: Calligrafree ~